

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 02296 071723Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00  
SAJ-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /060 W  
-----071729Z 084263 /47

O P 071712Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5402  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 02296

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS MPOL NATO MILI AWACS PO GW  
SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON NATO AEW AND ON PORTUGUESE  
FORCE MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) USNATO 0636; (B) USNATO 0645; (C) BONN 2237

1. GENERAL BRANDT, CHIEF OF POLITICAL/MILITARY  
AFFAIRS AT THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS CALLED  
THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION HE  
HAD GIVEN US EARLIER (REF C): THAT THE FEDERAL SECURITY  
COUNCIL DID NOT FORMALLY ADDRESS THE AWACS ISSUE IN A  
DECISION PAPER. HE SAID AWACS WAS DISCUSSED (AS  
AMBASSADOR PAULS REPORTED IN REF B), BUT THAT THE  
DEFENSE MINISTRY DID NOT PRESENT THE FULL BRIEFING  
THAT THE MINISTRY HAD PREPARED FOR HIM. BRANDT SAID HE  
DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD AFFECT THE AWACS DECISION  
PROCESS, SINCE THERE HAD TO BE A MEETING OF FINANCIAL  
EXPERTS BEFORE A FORMAL GERMAN DECISION COULD BE MADE

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IN ANY EVENT.

2. GENERAL BRANDT SAID THE FMOD WAS NOW AWAITING  
THE FULL REPORT ON THE MEETING FROM CHIEF OF STAFF  
GENERAL WUST. THE FMOD WOULD THEN TRY TO DEAL WITH  
ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RAISED AT THE  
FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.

3. AS FOR PORTUGAL, BRANDT ALSO CONFIRMED THE EARLIER INFORMATION THAT THE FORCE MODERNIZATION ISSUES WERE NOT ADDRESSED AT THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE DECISION PROCESS EITHER BECAUSE THE US-FRG MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THE FRG WOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER BY THEN.

4. COMMENT: WE WISH TO TALK TO OTHER GERMAN OFFICIALS BEFORE OFFERING OUR VIEWS ON AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (REF B). LIKE AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE, WE BELIEVE MINISTER LEBER'S REPLY TO SECDEF CONSTITUTES THE CRUCIAL NEXT ELEMENT IN THE AEW DECISION CHAIN, AND WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER LEBER NOW FEELS HE HAS ENOUGH GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO REPLY.

5. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE GETTING MANY SIGNALS REINFORCING PAULS'S REMARK (PARA LC, REF B) THAT THE US MAY NOW BE "SELLING" THE AWACS SYSTEM SOMEWHAT TOO HARD. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE GERMAN DECISION PROCESS MUST GO THROUGH ITS OWN REQUIRED STEPS BEFORE WE OPENLY INTERVENE WITH AN OFFER TO BRIEF THE CHANCELLOR. WE RECOGNIZE THE FRUSTRATIONS AND THE TIMING CONSIDERATIONS POSED BY BRITISH CONCERNS, AND WE WILL TRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF WHAT NEXT STEPS HERE ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY BUILDUP, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 BONN 2237  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MASS, MPOL, MILI, PO, GE, NATO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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